



Written testimony submitted to the Education Committee on S.B. 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut

March 3, 2021

Co-Chairs Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative McCarty, and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

My name is Overseer Kenneth Moales Jr. and I'm Pastor at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bridgeport, the former Chair of the Bridgeport Board of Education, and a proud member of FaithActs for Education.

I'm asking you to support S.B. 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut.

Many others have told you today what this legislation will do if enacted into law. I will not use my time for that today.

What I will do, however, is talk about the ledger.

You see, my training is as an accountant, having worked for Deloitte, the New York Times and other notable companies.

And in accounting, two of the most important words are DEBIT and CREDIT. And when your debts exceed your credits, when what you owe is greater than what you can pay, you are known as "in the red."

When it comes to providing for the educations of our low-income Black and Brown children, I am here to say Connecticut is in the red.

Deeply in the red.

Connecticut's accounts in this regard are so deficient that from a moral point of view, it should be in receivership.

That debits column is not filled with numerals, however. If you look closely enough, you will see it is filled with bodies.

The bodies of our children.

Black and brown children in Bridgeport, New Haven, Hartford, Waterbury, New Britain and more.



Their hopes drowning, their futures subsumed in a sea of IOUs, promises broken, dreams deferred, and lost in an endless negative balance perpetuated by hopelessness, lack of opportunity, and conscious disregard by the people who are supposed to care about their welfare.

As a trained accountant, I am worried about this negative balance. I say to you today it is not sustainable. It will lead to bankruptcy -- economic, social, and moral bankruptcy.

More importantly, as a man of God and someone who has witnessed first hand the hardships of intentional disinvestment in our communities, predatory lending, and the impact of cyclical poverty, we must ask ourselves, if we can find billions to bailout the wealthiest among us whose profits are soaring during this pandemic, how can we not provide basic funding to the people and communities who need it most.

Is it time to implement a recovery plan! One for the people and by the people, so that every child has the opportunity to succeed in this state.

SB 948 is that recovery plan. The first step.

Please vote "Yes" on S.B. 948 and support its passage in the General Assembly.

And then make it law.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and leadership on this issue

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